

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-04 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAM-01 ARA-06

IO-04 /075 W

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R 311240Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0895

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR ELAB PO XZ

SUBJ: SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OLAF PALME LEADS

SCANDINAVIAN SOCIALIST DELEGATION TO PORTUGAL

REF: (A) OSLO 4663; (B) STOCKHOLM 4590; (C) COPENHAGEN 3030

AT THE INVITATION OF THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY AND
FOREIGN MINISTER MARIO SOARES, A SCANDINAVIAN DELEGATION
OF SOCIALISTS, LED BY SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OLAF PALME,
ARRIVED IN LISBON MID-DAY, SATURDAY OCTOBER 26, AND
DEPARTED 24 HOURS LATER. THE SWEDISH REPRESENTATIVES
INCLUDED TAGE PETERSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
STATE TO THE PRIME MINISTER; SVEN ANDERSON,
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SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY;

RUNE MOLIN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SWEDISH LABOR CONFEDERATION; AND PIERRE SCHORRI, ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THE NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT WAS LED BY FOREIGN MINISTER KNUT FRYDENLUND AND INCLUDED REIULF STEEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE LABOR PARTY, AND KAARE SANDEGREN, INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE TRADE UNION FEDERATION.

2. THE DELEGATION MET WITH PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES, DINED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES, GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE, AND VISITED SOCIALIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS. PORTUGUESE PRESS SUBSEQUENTLY CARRIED STORY, DATELINED STOCKHOLM, QUOTING PALME AS SAYING THAT THE VISIT RECONFIRMED HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE LEADERS OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) ARE THE AUTHORS OF THE ONLY MILITARY COUP WHICH HE COULD COMPREHEND, THAT HIS CONVERSATIONS PROVIDED AN EVEN MORE POSITIVE PICTURE OF WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED IN PORTUGAL, AND THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE AFM REALLY WISHED TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY. IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERS' SPECULATION THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HOLD THE PROPOSED ELECTIONS IN PORTUGAL ON SCHEDULE, PALME REPORTEDLY REPLIED "ALL HOPE TO HOLD FREE ELECTIONS IN MARCH 1975".

3. COMMENT: THE VISIT WAS DESIGNED TO GIVE A BOOST TO THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY AND PROBABLY DID SO TO A LIMITED EXTENT. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT IT WAS OF VERY SHORT DURATION AND OCCURRED ON A WEEKEND CERTAINLY LESSENED ITS PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPACT. THE REAL IMPORTANCE OF THE VISIT WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE AMOUNT OF AID WHICH MAY BE FORTHCOMING TO PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS FROM THE SCANDINAVIANS AS A RESULT OF THE MEETINGS.
SCOTT

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